

Final: Of Mice and Men

The following prompt will cover part III of the final. Please read carefully and pay close attention to the 50-point rubric to ensure success.

Essay Prompt:

Throughout the novel, we have closely studied numerous themes and how they emerged and developed. These included, but weren't limited to, isolation/loneliness, innocence, friendship, visions of America, and women/femininity. One theme that we didn't look at, though it is very prevalent in the story, is 'the impossibility of the American dream.' Most of the characters, at one point or another in the story, admit to dreaming of a different life. Before the action of the story begins, different circumstances have robbed these characters of these dreams and wishes. **Using textual evidence, write about three of the characters who have been afflicted by 'the impossibility of the American dream.'**

Questions to consider:

- What does 'the impossibility of the American dream' mean in relation to this book?
- What characters have dreams outside of the farm? What are they?
- Are these dreams realistic or impossible? Why or why not?
- How did Steinbeck develop this theme with regard to your chosen characters throughout the story?

You can either handwrite the essay on paper or type it in Google Docs and turn it into Google Classroom when complete. **It is due Friday, February 2nd.**

Rubric:

Of Mice and Men Final Rubric:	Points Possible	Points Given
Did you answer the prompt?	15	
Did you include at least three examples from the text (textual evidence) to support your answer?	10	
Is your paper free of mistakes? Check spelling, grammar	15	
Did you follow the correct format? Proper heading, 12-pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 1 ½ page minimum typed or 3 pages handwritten.	10	
Total	50	